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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You created us to praise You. Forgive us for the pride that too frequently takes the place of praise in our hearts. So often, we want to be adequate in our own strength, to be loved by You because of our self-generated goodness, and to be admired by people because of our superior performance. Yet pride pollutes everything: It stunts our spiritual growth, creates tensions in our relationships, and makes us people who are difficult for You to bless. Most important of all, our pride separates us from You, dear Father. When pride reigns, life becomes bland, truth becomes relative, and values become confused. We lose that inner confidence of convictions rooted in the Bible and Your revealed truth.

Now in this quiet moment, we praise You for breaking the bubble of illusion that, with our own cleverness and cunning, we can solve life's problems. Help us recover a sense of humor so we can laugh at ourselves for ever thinking we could make it on our own. We humble ourselves before You. Fill us with Your spirit. Now, with our minds planted on the Rock of Ages, we have the power to face the ambiguities of today with the absolutes of Your truth and guidance. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The bill clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 29, 1997.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALLARD thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the Senator from Montana, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. BURNS. This morning the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of William Kennard to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission. I now ask unanimous consent there be an additional 10 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders and, further, the vote on the nomination will occur at 12 o'clock noon today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, Members can expect the first vote at 12 o'clock. Following that vote, it is the two leaders' intention for the Senate to turn to consideration of H.R. 1119, the national defense authorization conference report, or the D.C. appropriations bill. The Senate may also begin consideration of Senator COVERDELL's legislation dealing with education IRA's.

Subsequently, Members can anticipate further rollcall votes throughout today's session of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM E. KENNARD, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session and proceed to the nomination of William E. Kennard of California, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William E. Kennard, of California, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose the nomination of William Kennard as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

Throughout the confirmation process, I have taken a particular interest in universal service. The ruling earlier this year by the FCC to structure a universal service fund from a 25-percent Federal contribution and a 75-percent State contribution has caused me a lot of concern, along with many of my colleagues from rural States.

I do not believe that this ruling is consistent with the intent of Congress in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Such a rule could have severe impacts on Montana and other rural States that are asked to make this contribution.

In the process of determining the attitudes of the nominees, I have heard statements about a reliance on the historical split between States and the Federal Government in the structure of this fund. However, in the case of Montana, which has not even had a universal service fund until it was enacted this year by the State legislature, we are on new territory, and history may be different from present circumstances.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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